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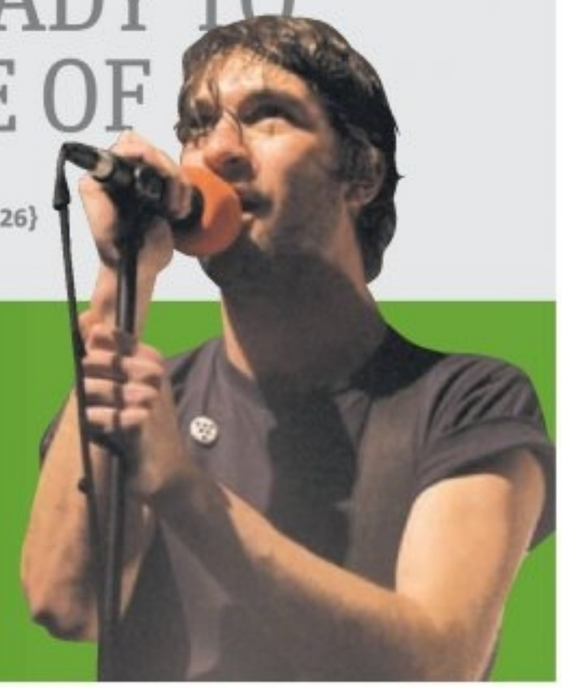
JAPANDROIDS READY TO ROCK EVEN MORE OF YOU THIS TIME {page 26}



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Thursday, December 6, 2012

An 'alarming disregard for safety' says MBTA GM

ERIN BALDASSARU/METRO

- T fires driver of Green Line trolley that crashed last week
- Operator worked second job overnight, preventing proper rest
- He was 'solely responsible' {page 02}

gift guide

Shopping for him, her and everyone

- How to buy gifts that won't have them asking if you saved the receipt {pages 20-23}

NFL power rankings {page 29}

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By the numbers

$11M

A state audit of three employers found more than 2,300 misclassified workers and $11 million in unreported wages, the state Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced yesterday in a news release. The Department of Unemployment Assistance audit on the three businesses, whose names were not disclosed, also found $2.55 million in unpaid state obligations, such as unemployment insurance payments. The businesses included an adult entertainment establishment, an auto auction company and a home health-care agency. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Riding the 57 for the first time in a long time. I forgot how badly BU students smell. #MBTA"

@WARD_HEGEDUS, WHO APPARENTLY IS NOT A TERRIER

In the news

▶ Harvard University

Hate fliers handed out at Harvard

CAMBRIDGE. Fliers that contain racist and anti-Semitic comments were passed out at Harvard University residence halls last week.

The fliers describe a new finals club and at the bottom read "Jews need not apply," WHDH reported. The fliers also use derogatory words aimed at African-Americans.

Students said the fliers were passed under the doors of their rooms. It was unclear who made the handouts. Harvard officials called the fliers offensive. METRO

Man snaps pics of BU students, is arrested

BOSTON. A Brighton man was arrested by Boston University police this week for allegedly taking photos of students at the campus library.

Michael Lydon, 37, was charged with secretly recording or conducting electronic surveillance, according to BU. Students reported to police that Lydon was at the Mugar Library taking inappropriate photos of students who were walking by him or seated nearby Monday night. Police responded and found about 20 photos on his phone, BU said. METRO

Red Line robber targeting women

BOSTON. Police said yesterday they are increasing patrols in Dorchester after several women were recently robbed there. All of the robberies targeted women walking from the MBTA Red Line, including JFK-UMass, Savin Hill, Shawmut and Ashmont Stations, between 7 and 10:30 p.m.

The suspect, described as a thin black man in his 20s, started a conversation before demanding money, and in some instances showed a handgun. METRO

Driver to blame in Green Line crash that injured 35

◗ Trolley operator worked overnight at second job before crash ◗ Driver will 'never operate another MBTA vehicle again' ◗ Man fired yesterday

MBTA General Manager Jonathan Davis said yesterday the driver of a Green Line trolley that slammed into the back of a stationary train at Boylston Station last Thursday was "solely responsible" for the crash.

As a result, the driver was fired, and according to Davis, he will "never operate another MBTA vehicle again."

"It's clear that this individual did not have a sufficient rest period before operating a Green Line passenger trolley," Davis said yesterday at a media briefing at the state transportation building. "Because of his alarming disregard for customer and employee safety in performing his duty as a Green Line operator, today he was fired."

The MBTA's investigation into the cause of the crash showed that the driver failed to follow the T's "rules and policies regarding fitness for duty, and because of his failure he caused a collision that resulted in injury to multiple customers, employees and damage to MBTA property."

The collision not only injured passengers who were thrown during impact, but cost the already struggling transit agency $500,000 in damages.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
morgan.rousseau@metro.us

EKIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ One of the 35 people injured in the crash is treated at the scene last week.

The driver's story

Davis would not name the driver or say what his second job was, calling those facts "irrelevant," but said it required him to work from midnight until 8 a.m. the night before the accident.

It is unclear whether the driver fell asleep behind the wheel. When pressed, Davis said he did not want to speculate, but that the driver was "disregarding his duties."

The driver told transit officials that he slept between 8 a.m. and his 11 a.m. MBTA shift, but Davis said investigators were hesitant to believe him considering the short turnaround.

The scene one week ago today

The crash happened last week at the Boylston Street Station.

- The crash happened just before noon on Thursday, Nov. 29.
- An outbound Green Line trolley rear-ended a stationary trolley at the Boylston Station platform.
- 35 people were taken to the hospital.
- Patients complained of bumps and bruises, while some had "more serious head and neck pain," according to Boston EMS.
- Passengers said the train didn't slow down.
- Damages cost the T $500,000.

"I want to remind our customers that the system is safe. I ride the system every day, and as part of my journey home tonight, I'll be taking the Green Line." DAVIS

Warren campaign is in debt despite raising $42 million

MASSACHUSETTS. Despite raising more than $42 million and running one of the most expensive Senate races in the country, Elizabeth Warren says her campaign is in debt.

The reason? Too much pizza and coffee.

Warren, in a fundraising appeal to supporters, wrote yesterday that the get-out-the vote effort fueled by thousands of volunteers was larger than her campaign had anticipated and helped make the difference in her defeat of Sen. Scott Brown. SHNS

▶ Warren

Quoted

"After all, we've been proud ... to have one of the scrappiest ... grassroots armies ever assembled ... and a grassroots army moves on coffee and pizza."
WARREN

In the news

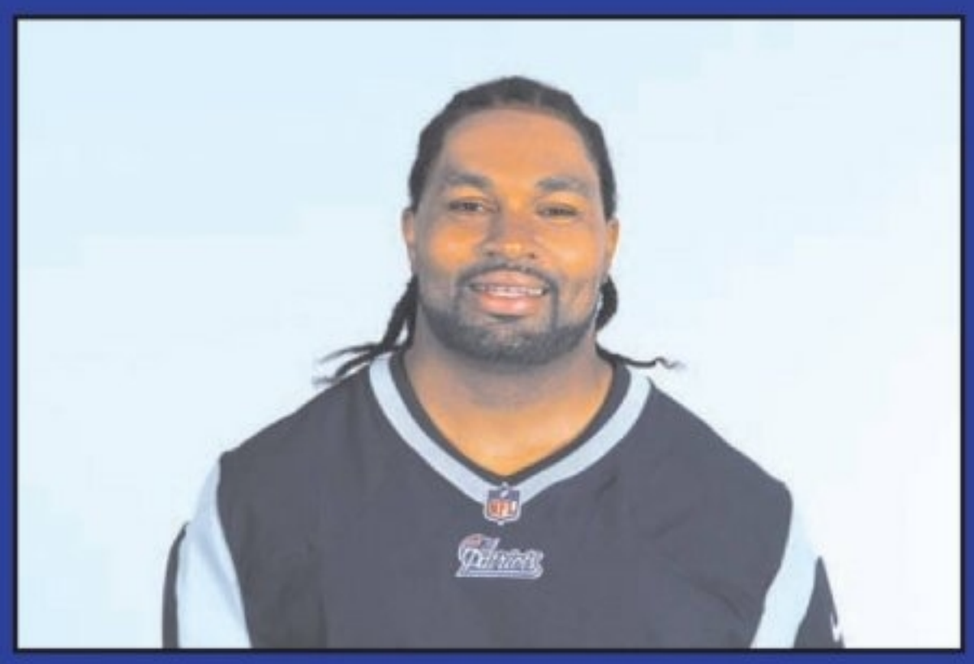
Thieves take church's donated Christmas gifts

SHREWSBURY. Thousands of dollars' worth of gifts for needy children and families were taken from a Shrewsbury church this week.

Officials from St. Anne's Church discovered on Tuesday that the donated gifts were stolen from a locked storage shed near the church, according to the Globe. The door had apparently been kicked in.

Parishioners had donated the gifts as part of a giving-tree drive. Hasbro toy company has offered to replace the gifts. METRO

JOIN US MAN UP IT'S GUYS' NIGHT OUT



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In the news

Harvard students embrace 'milking'

While "milking" usually refers to drawing milk from the teat of a female mammal, the Internet has given it another meaning — to publicly drench oneself in milk and post it online.

YOUTUBE

▶ Udderly inexplicable

A YouTube video posted Tuesday shows a group of Harvard students pouring milk over their heads throughout Boston and Cambridge, including the Harvard campus and the MBTA.

The stunts follow the emergence of the new Internet trend "milking," which is similar to the "planking" craze, only messier.

Harvard student Alejandro Perez, a roommate of a Harvard milker, said yesterday that the video was inspired by a viral video out of Newcastle, England, in which a group of students pour four-pint containers of milk over themselves across the city.

That video has garnered more than half a million views in two weeks.

Perez would not give details on the Harvard milkers, saying the producers hoped to maintain the video's "allure." METRO/MR

Boston debuts the nation's first 'City Hall To Go' truck

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The nation's first City Hall on wheels was parked on City Hall Plaza yesterday.

Boston is now home to the nation's first "City Hall To Go" truck, which made its debut yesterday in various locations across the city.

The mobile municipal truck lets people pay or dispute parking tickets, request birth, death and marriage certificates, and pay property and excise taxes, among other services.

"'City Hall To Go' builds on our mission to shake up the status quo in municipal services," Mayor Thomas Menino said in a statement yesterday. "This pilot offers one more way for Boston residents to get personal, timely service from the city, and makes it even easier by cutting out the trip to City Hall."

Yesterday the truck made stops at City Hall Plaza, the Frog Pond at Boston Common, Copley Library, Peter's Park in the South End, Gertrude Howes Playground in Roxbury and Ashmont Station. The goal of the tour — which ran from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. — was to raise awareness about city services.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
morgan.rousseau@metro.us

What's on the menu?

Constituents can hit up the truck to:

- Pay or dispute a parking ticket
- Pay taxes
- Get an e-library card
- Register to vote
- Get birth, marriage and death certificates
- Ask a city-related question

Schedules to keep

Starting this spring, the city plans for the truck to become a regular feature in Boston's neighborhoods, including at special events, block parties and street festivals, as well as offer seasonal services as resident needs shift throughout the year, according to Menino spokeswoman Emilee Ellison.

The truck gets a makeover

The truck, which was formerly used as a Boston Police Department SWAT vehicle, will also join Menino's Enchanted Trolley Tour this weekend, with 16 stops across all of Boston's neighborhoods.

The design of the bright red and blue truck was inspired by the city's neighborhoods, Ellison said. The map encircling the truck takes a viewer from west to east, along city streets, while the skyline "celebrates Boston's thriving urban center."

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In the news

Firefighters offer arson info rewards

MASSACHUSETTS. A group of firefighters has put up a reward for information about a serial arsonist who has been setting fires to buildings in Southeastern Massachusetts for months.

The Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts put up the $5,000 reward yesterday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the arsonist.

State fire officials have said that more than a dozen fires have occurred since September and mostly in abandoned or empty structures. METRO

Zipcar moving to Fort Point area

BOSTON. Zipcar, Inc. yesterday announced that next year it will move its corporate headquarters from Cambridge to Boston's Innovation District.

The new office, located at 35 Thomson Place in Fort Point, will encompass all six floors of the 46,000-square-foot building. The office will be designed for energy efficiency and sustainability, according to a Zipcar spokeswoman. METRO

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Moving to Boston

Court: warrantless phone searches OK

MASSACHUSETTS. The state's highest court ruled yesterday that police do not need a warrant to search the recent call list in the cell phone of a person who has been arrested.

The decision was released yesterday and involved two Boston drug cases in which the suspects challenged the search by police officers.

The justices did not decide on searches of text messages or e-mails and left that for another case. METRO

Contraceptives, religion at odds in federal appeals court

Saying that religious beliefs should not be imposed on others, American Civil Liberties Union attorneys argued yesterday that federal funding should not be distributed to a Catholic services group that restricts reproductive health services.

At issue is the federal department of Health and Human Services' prior contract with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide support services to women forced into the sex industry. The USCCB does not participate in the funding of abortions or contraceptives, which the ACLU argues is important for sex trafficking victims who are often raped and sexually assaulted.

A federal court decision earlier this year ruled that HHS violated constitutional rights by contracting with USCCB because it did not allow for abortions or contraceptives.

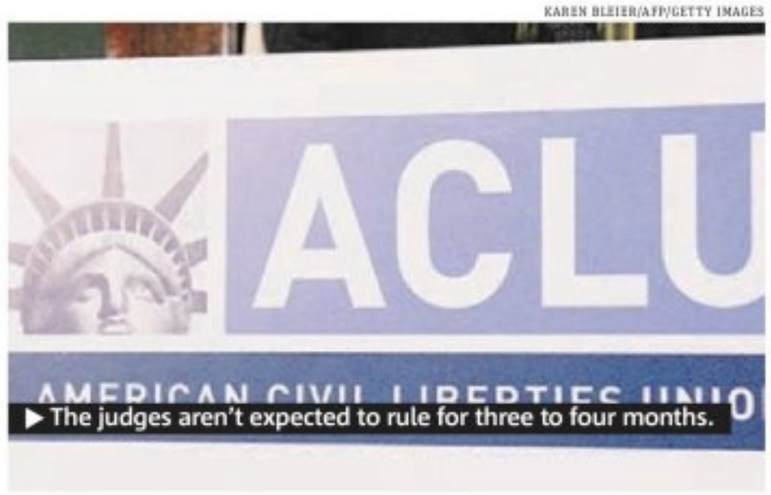
The USCCB appealed the decision and oral arguments before a panel of First Circuit judges were held yesterday.

"[The government] essentially handed over their responsibility to USCCB and allowed USCCB to use their religious beliefs to overrule their prior decision that trafficking victims need access to these services," said Brigitte Amiri, an ACLU attorney.

The potential ruling could not only impact sex-trafficking victims, but also unaccompanied immigrant minors picked up by federal officials and refugees who also receive services from certain religious service groups, Amiri said.

USCCB attorney Henry Dinger said the ACLU ignores distinctions between governmental and private speech in part of its argument.

KAREN BLEIER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



▶ The judges aren't expected to rule for three to four months.

Moot case?

The panel of judges quizzed the ACLU attorney on whether the case is now a moot point since the government no longer contracts or has not awarded a grant to the USCCB.

Brigitte Amiri, an ACLU attorney, said that the government could decide to "return to its old ways" and contact with the USCCB in the future or provide funds during another round of grants.

If the court doesn't rule, she said, "we might find ourselves here again in two years."

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

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▶ All the gifts purchased will be sent directly to Metro's office. It's the third year of Metro Magic, where we ask our readers to go online to buy toys for underprivileged children.

METRO

Majority of Americans support legal marijuana

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Californians voted to legalize medical cannabis use in 1996, clashing with federal drug laws.

A majority of American voters support the legalization of marijuana, with men and younger voters holding more tolerant public views about use of the drug, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released yesterday.

Voters in Colorado and Washington approved recreational use of marijuana last month, making them the first states in the country to do so even though use of the drug is still illegal under federal law.

"With the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes legal in about 20 states, and Washington and Colorado voting this November to legalize the drug for recreational use, American voters seem to have a more favorable opinion about this once-dreaded drug," Quinnipiac pollster Peter Brown said.

The public backs legalization by 51 percent to 44 percent, the poll found, but is divided on the issue by age and gender.

59%
Men support legalization by 59 percent to 36 percent

52%
Women oppose legalization by 52 percent to 44 percent

Two-thirds of voters under the age of 29 support legalization, while a majority of voters over the age of 65 oppose it.

"It seems likely, however, that given the better than 2-1 majority among younger voters, legalization is just a matter of time," Brown said. It was the first time Quinnipiac had conducted a survey on marijuana use.

The Quinnipiac poll also found voters taking a more favorable view of same-sex marriage, supporting it by a narrow margin of 48 percent to 46 percent. In July 2008, voters in the poll were opposed to same-sex marriage by 55 percent to 36 percent. REUTERS

The survey

The national survey of 1,949 voters was conducted between Nov. 28 and Dec. 3 and has a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points.

In the news

Call of Duty racks up $1B sales in 15 days

GETTY IMAGES

"Call of Duty: Black Ops II," the latest installment in Activision Blizzard Inc.'s best-selling video-game franchise, topped $1 billion in retail sales within its first 15 days of release.

The sales figure, which relies on Chart-Track retail data, means "Call of Duty" reached $1 billion faster than the movie "Avatar," the record holder for feature films, Activision said in a statement. The previous installment in the series accomplished that same feat last year. It took 16 days to reach the $1 billion milestone, compared with 17 for "Avatar," which came out in 2009. BLOOMBERG

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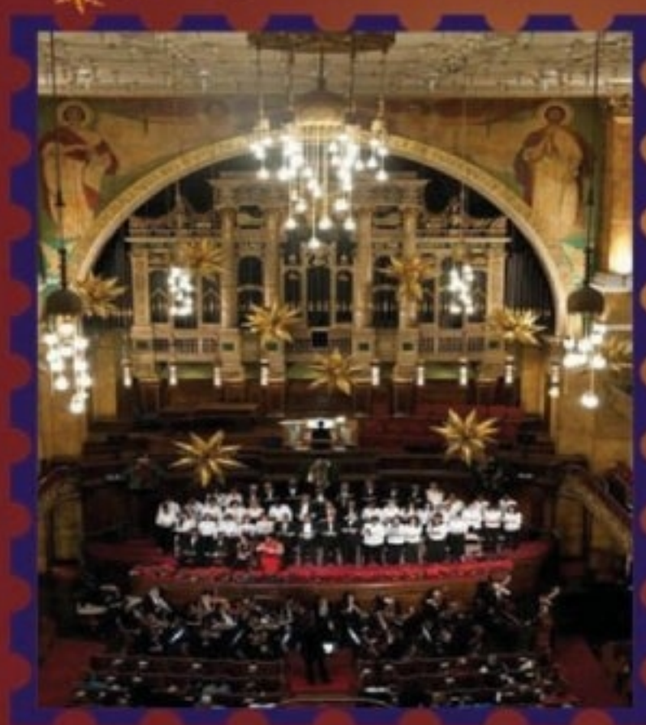

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Congress flies toward cliff, McAfee from Belize

TOM WILLIAMS/CQ ROLL CALL

Forget Dec. 21: Jan. 1 is the new doomsday

▶ The countdown to the middle class's anti-Christmas

Both sides dig in on fiscal cliff

Republicans and Democrats dug in on "fiscal cliff" talks yesterday, with both sides urging quick action but offering no compromises in a political stare-down that shows no signs of breaking.

Less than a month before the onset of spending cuts and tax increases that start to take effect in January unless Congress acts, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives called on President Barack Obama to initiate face-to-face talks and blamed him for a lack of action.

"We ask the president to sit down with us, be serious about the specifics," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said. Cantor later said the House would remain in session until "a credible solution to the fiscal cliff" had been announced. **REUTERS**

"Where are the discussions? Nothing is going on." CANTOR

Corporate weight loss

Citigroup sheds 11K jobs in restructuring

Citigroup Inc., which has lagged behind its peers in recovering from the financial crisis, said it is cutting 11,000 jobs worldwide, about 4 percent of its staff, to save as much as $1.1 billion a year in expenses.

The move will initially result in pre-tax charges of $1 billion against fourth-quarter earnings, the No. 3 U.S. bank by assets said yesterday. The cuts are Chief Executive Michael Corbat's first major steps to reorganize the company since he took the reins in October. Investors welcomed the news. Citigroup shares were up 5.3 percent to $36.11. **REUTERS**

4K Number of Citigroup branches worldwide after the restructuring

Flying south like a duck

McAfee to seek asylum in Guatemala

U.S. anti-virus software guru John McAfee, who is on the run from police in Belize seeking to question him in a murder probe, has crossed into Guatemala and said he will seek political asylum there.

McAfee has been in hiding for three weeks since police in Belize said they wanted to question him as "a person of interest" about the murder of fellow American Gregory Faull, with whom McAfee had quarreled. **REUTERS**

To dupe a duchess

Radio hosts prank Kate's hospital

The London hospital treating Prince William's pregnant wife Kate for severe morning sickness admitted yesterday it had fallen for a prank call from an Australian radio station, relaying personal details about her condition.

Two presenters from the Australian 2Day radio station managed to go one step further after calling the hospital pretending to be Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles. Despite putting on unconvincing impressions of the royal duo, they were put through to the ward and given intimate details. **REUTERS**

Trump? Feuding? No!

Trump clashes with top Scotch maker

Donald Trump has gone to war wth a leading Scotch whiskey maker in a row over who is Scotland's leading public figure. The Glenfiddich brand sponsors the Top Scot award, which this year went to salmon fisherman Michael Forbes, who has been in the forefront of opposition to Trump's plans for a golf course near the city of Aberdeen.

As a result, Trump banned Glenfiddich and all associated brands from his resorts and hotels. He said the brand ought to be ashamed of itself and said he would sell his own brand of whiskey instead. Glenfiddich rejected his claims. **METRO**

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Forbes unveils list of most influential

When it comes to power, politics trumps business, according to a new Forbes ranking yesterday that found heads of state occupying six of the top 10 spots among the world's most powerful people, led by President Barack Obama.

The annual list selected what Forbes said were the world's 71 most powerful people from among the roughly 7.1 billion global populace, based on factors ranging from wealth to global influence.

Obama was joined in the top 10 by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Russian President Vladimir Putin, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia and British Prime Minister David Cameron.

The list's highest-ranked businessman was Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates at No. 4.

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, both public officials, also made the top 10.

"This year's list reflects the changing of the guard in the world's two most powerful countries: the United States and China," Michael Noer, Forbes' executive editor, told Reuters in an e-mail.

Noer noted that China President Hu Jintao, last year's third most powerful person, fell off the list as he is leaving power, and his successor, Xi Jinping, ranked ninth instead.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who have stated they will not be serving in Obama's second term, were not in this year's rankings.

While elected and appointed officials and business people made up the vast majority of Forbes' most powerful, Pope Benedict XVI placed fifth in the rankings.

Among the oddities was Joaquin Guzman Loera at No. 63. Loera, far from a household name, is a billionaire nicknamed "El Chapo" who, as head of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, is the world's most powerful drug trafficker, according to Forbes.

REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Zuckerberg dropped out of the top 10.

Age not a factor

Age was also not a barrier in determining the list, with two of the youngest and oldest of this year's most powerful — 28-year-old Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and 81-year-old News Corp CEO Rupert Murdoch — back-to-back at numbers 25 and 26, respectively. REUTERS

Top 10

1 Barack Obama
President, United States
Age: 51

2 Angela Merkel
Chancellor, Germany
Age: 58

3 Vladimir Putin
President, Russia
Age: 60

4 Bill Gates
Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Age: 57

5 Pope Benedict XVI
Pope, Roman Catholic Church
Age: 85

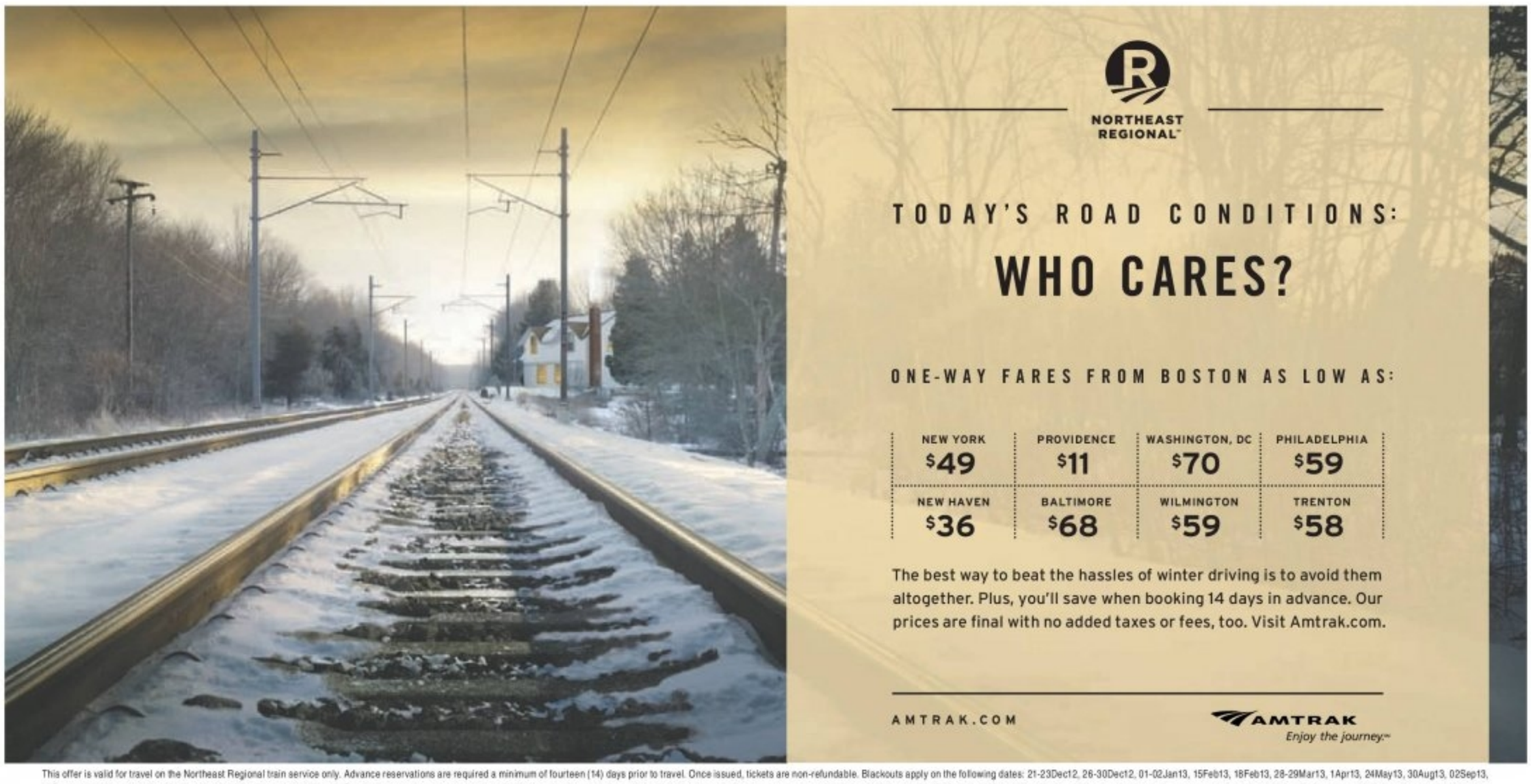
6 Ben Bernanke
Chairman, Federal Reserve United States
Age: 58

7 Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al Saud
King, Saudi Arabia
Age: 88

8 Mario Draghi
President, European Central Bank
Age: 65

9 Xi Jinping
Gen. Secretary, Communist Party China
Age: 59

10 David Cameron
Prime Minister, United Kingdom
Age: 46



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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Zachary Quinto has standards, Russell Brand is in need of direction, Michelle Trachtenberg is feeling pretty smart and Joan Rivers has some better ideas for the government.

@ZacharyQuinto: if you are taking pictures with your iPad: i have absolutely no interest in taking our relationship any further than the picture.

@rustyrockets: I'm in Melbourne. Where do I go? What do I do? Who will love me?

@RealMichelleT: Getting the Final Jeopardy answer. #Priceless

@Joan_Rivers: The IRS seized Lindsay's bank accounts to settle her tax debt of $233,904. Why bother? They'll get the same amount by returning her empties.

Trachtenberg

▶ LeAnn Rimes, Eddie Cibrian and his sons.

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO 'TOOT'

There was a time when **LeAnn Rimes** was world-famous for her talent (right? It's hard for me to remember that long ago). Now she's just known for the petty drama with her long-suffering husband, **Eddie Cibrian**, and his ex, **Brandi Glanville**.

The latest? Glanville is professing to a tabloid that she doesn't want Rimes around her sons, **Mason**, 9 and **Jake**, 5, because, according to her, they mistake her laxatives for candy.

"I, unfortunately, don't find her to be stable and I don't want her around my kids when Eddie's not there — or at least the nanny, his parents, someone," Glanville says of Rimes to Us Magazine. "Mason, my eldest, ate some of Le's candies and got extremely ill. And Le's candies are laxatives. She has one in every purse. Mason found one on the floor and thought it was a Skittle! They don't keep sugar in the house," Glanville explains. "He thought he finally found candy."

You know, you'd think in between learning shapes and colors, L.A. preschools would also teach life lessons to children being raised by celebrity parents. They could teach the difference between a Skittle and a laxative or the difference between your nanny and your mother — the list is endless.

Cibrian actually is reasonable in ridiculous situation

"If my ex-wife truly cared about the welfare of our sons, she would stop the constant bashing on an important person in their lives and focus on productive co-parenting to make our blended family the strongest it can be," he says in a statement to Us Weekly. "And she would do so privately."

Hot. Shot

▶ Carpenter

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Carpenter's pants channel Carol Brady

Jennifer Carpenter attended The Hollywood Reporter's Power 100: Women In Entertainment Breakfast yesterday in Beverly Hills. But her outfit should have been in Boca Raton.

Rumors

Rihanna to wed?

Anyone who follows **Rihanna**'s Twitter feed knows that **Chris Brown** is definitely back in her life, but the latest news still comes as a shock: She is reportedly planning to marry Brown in a secret ceremony while the pair are in her native Barbados for the holidays, per Hollyscoop. One person not thrilled about this? Rihanna's mom. "She called Rihanna to yell at her, asking what she's doing with her life."

Well, if Rihanna is dumb enough to marry Brown, she should probably get used to being yelled at.

Talking points

Nicks has Stewart's back

Stevie Nicks is standing by pal **Kristen Stewart** and thinks folks need to cut her some slack in the wake of her cheating scandal from this past summer. "I was her age once, and exactly what happened to her happened to me two or three times, and whoever it was that I was with forgave me all two or three times," Nicks tells Us Weekly. "The fact is that when you're young and you've been in a relationship for a long time and something comes along that is a little bit overwhelming and magical, and you're kind of in another situation with someone else, things happen."

▶ Nicks

Muniz suffers mini-stroke

▶ Muniz

Former "Malcolm in the Middle" star **Frankie Muniz** shocked fans on Twitter with the news that he'd suffered a stroke just days before his 27th birthday. "I was in the hospital last Friday. I suffered a 'mini stroke,' which was not fun at all," Muniz posted. "Have to start taking care of my body! Getting old!" Muniz was taken to an emergency room near his Arizona home after friends noticed he was having trouble speaking.

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December looks: Red lips on the red carpet

1 **Tori Spelling** and her new baby **Finn McDermott** attended the second annual Santa's Secret Workshop Benefiting L.A. Family Housing at Andaz on Saturday in West Hollywood.

2 **AnnaLynne McCord** posed at the Four Stories Film Series at the W hotel on Tuesday in Westwood, Calif.

3 **Madeleine Stowe** attended the Mending Kids International Celebrity Poker Tournament at The London Hotel on Saturday in West Hollywood.

4 **Keyshia Cole** was at UNCF's 34th annual An Evening Of Stars on Saturday in Pasadena, Calif.

5 **Taylor Swift** posed in her signature red lips at KIIS FM's 2012 Jingle Ball on Saturday in Los Angeles.

6 **Beth Ostrosky Stern** attended the Animal Medical Center's TOP DOG Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street on Dec. 3 in New York City.

7 Along with her "Revenge" co-star Stowe (No. 3), **Ashley Madekwe** also attended the Mending Kids International Celebrity Poker Tournament at The London Hotel.

1: TIFFANY ROSE/WIREIMAGE
2: TODD GREEN/GETTY IMAGES FOR VICE MEDIA
3: TERRINA HORSON/FILMMAGIC
4: MARK DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR BET
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▶ The Waltz of the Flowers is one of the highlights of "The Slutcracker" that we can show in this paper.

HANS WENDLAND

'Slutcracker' sweet

▶ The sexual satire is back and deservedly bringing in more crowds ▶ Perhaps '50 Shades of Grey' has led to an increased popularity of this 'White Slutmas'? ▶ Hey, audience, now's the perfect time to loosen up a bit

"OMG," tweeted Vanessa White, aka Sugar Dish, on Saturday, "It's a White Slutmas!"

Indeed. Her production of "The Slutcracker — a Burlesque" has returned to the Somerville Theatre for a fifth season, and finally, it feels like the holiday season can properly begin.

In this sexual satire of "The Nutcracker," Clara receives a dildo from her aunt. The magical gift turns into a life-sized Slutcracker Prince, who takes her on a journey to explore her sexuality before marriage.

The opening night was welcomed by a sold-out crowd, but they were much more polite than in years past. Maybe the novelty has worn off? Or maybe sexual entertainment isn't nearly as taboo as it was before the popularity of "50 Shades of Grey" and "Magic Mike."

But come on, people! Leave your manners at the door! It's boobies and butts and good, dirty fun, not high art.

The crowd finally loosened up when the Russian Sluts whipped onstage. Then there was a fantastic performance by Sindy Katrotic and her long legs (complete with clear platform heels) in the Dance of the Reed Pole. And Sugar Dish herself did double duty, turning in a memorable chair dance of the Sugar Dish Fairy and wearing bedazzled pointe shoes as the Wet Spot Fairy.

The production is not that different from 2011's — the set is the same and there are a few updated costumes.

Perhaps the biggest change (which is not much of a change at all) is the exclusive slutty soundtrack. It's still the Tchaikovsky score, but conductor Mikel Toms of the Czech orchestra Filharmonie Brno has added some … err … vibrations.

Some of the best moments of the night were improvised. Good sex usually is.

KATRINA T. LALLIER
katrina.lallier@metro.us

Who should see it?

Anyone who wants to practice their best catcalls and laugh for two hours. "The Slutcracker" is not for children.

To really appreciate the production to its fullest, first see the traditional ballet or, at the very least, know E.T.A. Hoffmann's story.

If you go

'The Slutcracker – a Burlesque'
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10 REASONS TO HIT THE MULTIPLEX

DALE ROBINETTE

▶ Jessica Biel and Gerard Butler star in "Playing for Keeps."

Must-see

1 **'Playing for Keeps'** The latest Gerard Butler rom-com follows a former soccer star (Butler) who tries to salvage his relationship with his young son when he is asked to coach his soccer team. He's a hit with the kids, and the moms aren't complaining either.

2 **'Killing Them Softly'** This grimy underworld drama follows some fools who rip off a mobster's card game and must answer to an uncompromising enforcer (Brad Pitt).

3 **'The Collection'** The masterminds of the "Saw" franchise reappear with a new Svengali of torture games: a hooded man who kidnaps a girl and takes her to his elaborate maze of killing machines.

4 **'Hitchcock'** Sir Anthony Hopkins disappears into the fat suit of Alfred Hitchcock in this film that depicts the making of the suspense master's most widely known film, "Psycho."

5 **'Life of Pi'** Ang Lee's latest effort, about a young man adrift at sea with only a tiger for company, offers dazzling 3-D visuals and plenty of Oscar buzz.

6 **'Rise of the Guardians'** Alec Baldwin and Chris Pine loan their voices to this animated feature that imagines mythical figures banding together to protect children from a villain.

7 **'The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2'** Vampire husband and wife Edward and Bella are on a mission to save their spawn from the evil Volturi.

8 **'Anna Karenina'** Keira Knightley stars in this adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's celebrated novel about a married socialite.

9 **'Silver Linings Playbook'** Bradley Cooper stars as a mentally unstable man who finds himself spending time with an equally strange woman (Jennifer Lawrence).

10 **'Skyfall'** 007's skills are challenged by an evil new adversary: an ex-agent. METRO

TV watch list

'In Vogue: The Editor's Eye'

DOCUMENTARY. Vogue's 120-year history is chronicled in this look at the editors who made the magazine *the* fashion bible. **9 p.m., HBO**

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. Jerry hosts a holiday party with his wife, played by guest star Christie Brinkley (nice going, Jerry!), but some of his co-workers are shocked when they find out they weren't invited. **9:30 p.m., NBC**

'The Office'

COMEDY. Dwight seizes the moment, thrusting a traditional Schrute German Christmas on his co-workers when the party-planning committee fails to put together a proper holiday shindig. Also, Darryl worries that Jim may be breaking his promise to bring him to a new job in Philadelphia. **9 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

TAG
theater & arts guide

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MRT.org | 978-654-4678

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mydating

Yes, you owe them a phone call

It's not a great mystery what it means when you suddenly stop hearing from someone you went on a few dates with. And though this is an acceptable way to end things, is it really the best idea?

I get the rational opinion: Do you really have to break up with someone you've barely started dating? Is it worth the awkwardness? Does he or she even want to hear you uttering out some canned "it's not you, it's me" speech? And perhaps most honestly, would ending it officially (with words) leave you nowhere to turn if the pickings got even slimmer?

Instead of just slinking out of could-be relationships, I think we owe it to each other to suffer through the process of giving an actual rejection — it holds us more accountable for our actions. If someone has spent time getting to know you, you owe them a goodbye. If that goodbye is harder because you led them on a bit or saw something through to five dates that never should have made it to two, then you should have to deal with it.

While dealing with it, why not deal honestly? None of this "I'm busy," "not ready," "it's me" crap that everyone knows is bull anyway. Do the person the favor of saying (nicely) exactly what it is about them won't work for you. What if this person is making the same mistakes over and over and your feedback helps him or her land a better-suited someone next time around?

*— **Amber Madison** is a Manhattan-based relationship expert and dating coach. She is the author of 'Are All Guys Assholes?' for which she traveled the country, spoke to over 1,000 men and discovered that the answer to this question is no. You can follow her on Twitter @ambermadi or online at www.ambermadisonline.com*

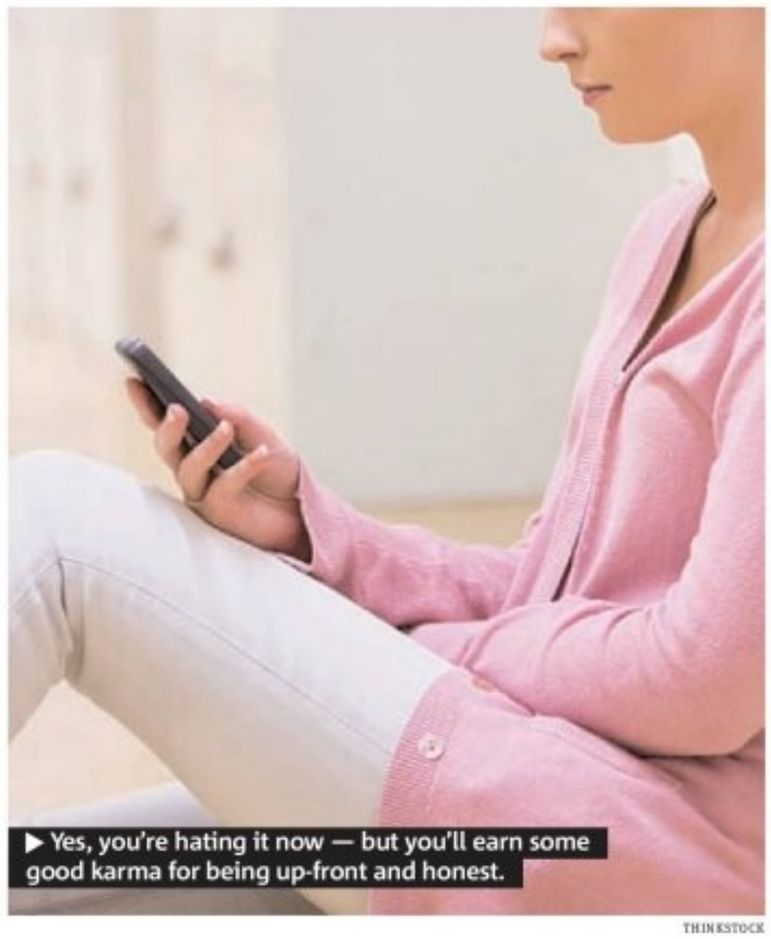
The hookup

AMBER MADISON

WWW.AMBERMADISONONLINE.COM

Why be honest?

We should break up with each other openly and honestly. It's good practice. When you do finally meet the right person, you're going to have to explain your feelings and sometimes say things that might be upsetting. Since many of us shy away from confrontation, this is a great opportunity to face that fear. And in the worst case scenario, if the person you're ending it with fires back with, "Why are you telling me all this?" then you can say "It's not you, it's me."



▶ Yes, you're hating it now — but you'll earn some good karma for being up-front and honest.

THINKSTOCK

New release

Learn 'flirtexting' in a new, updated edition

You're in a new relationship when all of a sudden, a misread text or tweet shuts the whole thing down. Debra Goldstein and Olivia Baniuszewicz, self-described digital dating experts, are here to help. These days texts, Facebook messages and e-mails can make or break a potential relationship. Their new updated edition of "Flirtexting: How to Text Your Way Into His Heart" is now available for all of your new tech dating dilemmas. METRO

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The report

MASSACHUSETTS

Wachusett Mountain
www.wachusett.com
Summit elevation: 2,006 ft.
Vertical drop: 1,000 ft.
Number of lifts: 8
Number of trails: 22
Despite this week's unseasonably warm weather, the mountain still has top-to-bottom coverage on all open terrain. Primary trail conditions are machine groomed and wet, but four trails and three lifts are open and ready to be carved up this weeekend.

MAINE

Sugarloaf USA
www.sugarloaf.com
Summit elevation: 4,237 ft.
Vertical drop: 2,820 ft.
Number of lifts: 15
Number of trails: 145
Sugarloaf will hold its Demo Days this weekend, allowing visitors to try out the latest and greatest from all of the ski industry's top manufacturers. On Sunday the mountain will hold a blessing of the skis and boards at 11 a.m. Prizes will be offered for oldest gear, largest family group, youngest/oldest skier or rider, and judges' choice.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mount Sunapee
www.mountsunapee.com
Summit Elevation: 2,743 ft.
Vertical Drop: 1,510 ft.
Number of Lifts: 11
Number of Trails: 66
While the week of Christmas traditionally kicks off the winter season, there is a lot happening at Mount Sunapee prior to the holidays. The mountain's new Start Here learn-to-ski/snowboard package is only $29 starting this Saturday, Dec. 8, through Thursday, Dec. 20.

Gunstock Mountain Resort
www.gunstock.com
Summit elevation: 2,300 ft.
Vertical drop: 1,400 ft.
Number of lifts: 8
Number of trails: 55
Gunstock is offering its award-winning learn-to-ski-or-snowboard program — Mountain Magic — at a huge savings starting this weekend. Enroll in the three-day Mountain Magic program, take your first lesson during the promotion period (Dec. 8-16) and it's free. You pay only for the second and third days of the program, which you can take at any time during the 2012/2013 season.

Cannon Mountain
www.cannonmt.com
Summit Elevation: 4,080 ft.
Vertical Drop: 2,180 ft.
Number of Lifts: 9
Number of Trails: 72
Cannon is holding its Ski for Hunger Food Drive this Saturday, with all food collected benefiting the Good Neighbor Food Pantry in Franconia. Bring four non-perishable food items to Guest Services in the Notchview Lodge and receive 50 percent off of your full-day ticket that day.

VERMONT

Mount Snow
www.mountsnow.com
Summit Elevation: 3,600 ft.
Vertical Drop: 1,700 ft
Number of Lifts: 20
Number of Trails: 80
To celebrate the resort's history, Mount Snow has announced that Dec. 12 will be known as Founders Day and skiers and riders can take advantage of $12 advance-purchase lift tickets, plus a party in Cuzzins Bar and Grill, birthday cake and a display of memorabilia from its storied past.

Okemo Mountain Resort
www.okemo.com
Summit Elevation: 3,344 ft.
Vertical Drop: 2,200 ft.
Number of Lifts: 19
Number of Trails: 119
Skiers and boarders are invited to attend Okemo's Hobbit Party this Sunday. Come and discuss "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien, take part in a trivia challenge, dress up for the costume contest, play games, eat hobbit foods and win prizes.

Killington
www.killington.com
Summit Elevation: 4,241 ft.
Vertical Drop: 3,050 ft
Number of Lifts: 22
Number of Trails: 140
Killington will hold its Rails to Riches competition this Saturday. The East Coast's top rail jam is back for another year and boasts an astounding $20,000 cash prize. Come watch all the action as these professional and amateur skiers and riders battle it out under the lights.

METRO

Vermont

COURTESY/STRATTON

▶ Got kids? Buy a pass for yourself and they ski free at Stratton this month.

Stratton Mountain Resort

www.Stratton.com
Base elevation: 1,872 ft.
Summit Elevation: 3,875 ft.
Vertical Drop: 2,003 ft.
Skiable Area: 625 acres
Number of Lifts: 11
Number of Trails: 94
Longest Run: 15,840 ft.
Kids ski free in December at Stratton with any adult lift ticket purchased online, at least 24 hours in advance, for any day before Dec. 21. The word "kids" is used loosely: This offer is valid for kids, tweens and teens 17 and under. Buy at Stratton.com.

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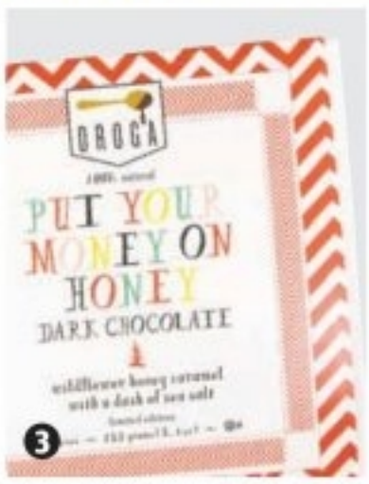
gift guide



Gifts for the foodie

These delicious treats will impress even the snobbiest epicurean in your life Let's just hope they share

▶ **1.** Make your cheese lover really happy with these adorable storage bags, which extend the life of their favorite fromage. **$12, www.shopterrain.com**

▶ **2.** These happiness-inducing, sweet-and-salty pretzels come in flavors such as banana cream, toffee crunch and pumpkin pie. **$7 for five, www.fattysundays.com**

▶ **3.** What happens when you mix delicious, all-natural confections with fun, graphic packaging from Mr. Boddington's Studio? A gift that won't make it to the recipient. Bonus: These incredible caramel treats swap in honey for corn syrup. **Droga Put Your Money on Honey caramels, $17, www.drogachocolates.com**

▶ **4.** Cheese and honey are BFFs. Murray's Three Amigos gift set includes a handmade dipper to assist in getting this addictive combo into their mouths. **$30, www.murrayscheese.com**

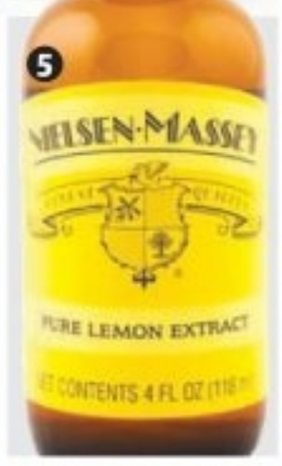
▶ **5.** Add some zest to their cookies and cakes. **Nielsen Massey Pure Lemon Extract, $6, www.surlatable.com**

▶ **6.** This DIY chocolate tree lets your little artist decorate as they see fit. **Lucas Candies Decorate Your Own Tree, $7, www.lucascandies.myshopify.com**

▶ **7.** Of course they'll want some gourmet ketchup to go with those duck fat french fries. This artisan batch subs agave nectar, honey and brown sugar for high-fructose corn syrup and uses puree from vine-ripened tomatoes. **Sir Kensington's ketchup, $7, www.sirkensingtons.com**

▶ **8.** Classic Panettone in pretty packaging? That's a Christmas win. **Nudo Olive Oil Panettone, $25, www.nudo-italia.com**

TINA CHADHA



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Gifts for the hostess

Showing up with any of these will get you first in line for dessert

1. No fireplace? Help her bring some nature in with these all-natural Maple Stick candles, cast from fallen branches. **$30, www.shopterrain.com**

2. Michiko Shimada's ceramic strawberry salt and pepper shakers will give the baby — and dog — some tough competition. **$38, www.stillhousenyc.com**

3. Zara Home's chic teaspoons look way fancier than their **$8** price tag. **www.zarahome.com**

4. Her pigs-in-a-blanket just got classier. **Hen House Linens cocktail napkins, $24 for a set of six,** www.henhouselinens.com

5. Whether they're places you've been or dream destinations, these graphic coasters will get the conversation flowing. **Jonathan Adler coasters, $48, www.jonathanadler.com**

6. Help her stir up some summery cocktails without the processed sugar. And this pretty bottle will add a feminine touch to the bar. **Mariposa Agave Nectar Liqueur, $25, www.heavenhill.com**

7. Cheeky name, pretty label and big taste — all reasons to bring a bottle of Thorny Rose. Plus, she'll appreciate the hostess-friendly screw cap. **$11, wine stores nationwide**

8. You weren't trying to be the star of the soiree — you just happened to show up with these. Take your crown as the most fun party guest. **Tops Malibu Sparklettes, $14,** www.topsmalibu.com

9. Blame Caldrea's new, gorgeous, refillable glass bottles for the hold-up in the bathroom. **$18, www.caldrea.com**

TINA CHADHA

gift guide

Gifts for the outdoorsy man

He camps, he hikes, he builds bookshelves and he also makes a mean souffle

Here are a few things that are going to make your Renaissance man happy

1. Art in the Age's handsome new gin uses old-world botanicals for a woodsy flavor that works in both savory (for him) and sweet (for you) cocktails. **$30, www.hitimewine.net**

2. iGrill's genius wireless Bluetooth meat thermometer — which works with Apple or Android devices — lets him monitor the grill or oven from up to 200 feet away. **$80, www.igrillinc.com**

3. This map lets him scratch-off where he's been to —or dreaming of exploring next. **Mini Scratch Map, $17, www.restorationhardware.com**

4. When he does shave, this is what he'll want to use. Plus, the lavender-scented cream and oil in this kit meet TSA guidelines. **The Art of Shaving 4 Elements of The Perfect Shave kit, $60, www.theartofshaving.com**

5. Inspired by camping, this candle features cedar and cypress notes. And when it's done, the enamel cup goes with him on his next outdoor adventure. **F.S.C. Barber signature candle, $55, www.fscbarber.com**

6. Take him on a nostalgic ride. These ceramic plates depict some of his favorite winter activities. **L.L.Bean Winter Lodge Plate Set, $40, www.llbean.com**

7. This is no man purse — rather, it's a cool way to lug around his tablets, notebooks and, um, surprise gifts for you. **Filson Tin Cloth Grip Case, $165, www.filson.com**

8. Bialetti's new eco-friendly Aeternum Evolution gray-and-white pans are not only sleek, but they also feature improved heat distribution and an oven-safe handle. **$40, www.bialetti.com**

TINA CHADHA

9. Tiviloi's classic, handsome Model One radio now comes with Bluetooth wireless technology. $260, www.tivoliaudio.com

myletters&games

Letters

letters@metro.us

Hampering boys' natures? That's been done to girls for centuries

RE: "I'M A BOY, I'M A BOY! BUT SOCIETY WON'T LET ME ACT LIKE IT" (METRO, DEC. 5) Actually, women and girls have been de-masculinized, too, only it has been for much longer than the 1990s, as letter writer Rob Donner says males have been. Females need to run, jump, throw, fend for themselves and, believe it or not, fight. In the animal kingdom, no female animal just sits and "looks pretty" in a dress like female humans have been assigned to do by society. In fact, a lot of people are saying that it is abnormal that girls are "suddenly" fighting like boys.

LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA E-MAIL

Maybe it's time for a kinder, gentler world for boys

Sorry, Rob Donner, I like it this way. Thank you, Gloria Steinem.

If you want the old boys, abusive and entitled of one another, fine. But I want new boys: full, whole, respectful, fun, strong and ready. If we think it means to be passive, we aren't there yet.

But only due to the lack of imagination of adult men. I definitely have what I want: a path to owning healthy masculinity. I challenge you and other men, especially fathers, to demonstrate today to boys what manhood is honestly all about. Shall we discuss what that is?

CRAIG NORBERG-BOHM, VIA E-MAIL

Racism is just one small part of bigoted behavior

RE: "ALL IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES CAN BE CHALKED UP TO HATE" (METRO, DEC. 4) Racism is not based on "ethnic, religious, ideological or social" differences as letter writer Nialee Mass states. Racism means hatred or intolerance of another race; hence the root word "race," which is defined as a group of persons related by common heredity, physical characteristics such as skin color, facial form, eye shape, and/or genetic markers.

What the letter describes is called bigotry or prejudice (which racism is a form of). While someone might argue this is semantics and does not take away from the message, I think it is important to identify things correctly and by their proper names.

The letter also makes sweeping, unsubstantiated statements about what "most religious, social and/or ethnic groups" and "most people" do or think.

Additionally, the letter states they do this "now," implying that the degree of human prejudices was somehow less in past times.

NATASHA ASTOR, VIA E-MAIL

Perhaps Victoria's Secret should stay that way

RE: "BACKSTAGE AT THE VICTORIA'S SECRET SHOW" (METRO, DEC. 4) It is shockingly distressing that you need to use Victoria's Secret pornography to attract "readers" in such a gross way as is depicted in Dec. 4 issue. Many people are greatly offended by such exploitation of women. I do not wish my daughter to see smut like that.

ANN DUGGAN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Unless your efforts are organized and efficient, things aren't likely to work out too well. If you're impulsive, problems could arise.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Keep an open mind, and you'll find that situations will automatically adjust themselves to your satisfaction. Any feelings of unfairness will be of your own creation.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Be extremely mindful of your behavior if you are involved in an arrangement with a friend that requires an investment from both. Either one of you could feel put upon.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Endeavors you manage solely will have excellent chances for success. Problems could quickly develop, however, if you have to share your authority with another.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be sure to treat serious matters with the respect they deserve. Left unresolved, they are likely to rear their ugly heads.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Heed the warning signs that impel you to wrap up all important projects and to not take a gamble when it comes to choosing a delegate for a vital task.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Although you're an excellent conceptualizer, you aren't likely to be equally as competent where execution is concerned. Make a good game plan and follow it through.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Even though you are quite adroit at managing your material affairs, you may not be too impressive at handling personal relationships. Stick to what you do best.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It is far better to go without than to make a bad deal with strings attached. In order to get what you want or need, it would be better to wait until the timing is right.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Unless you set a shining example, don't expect your friends and associates to behave perfectly. On the contrary, they will emulate you.

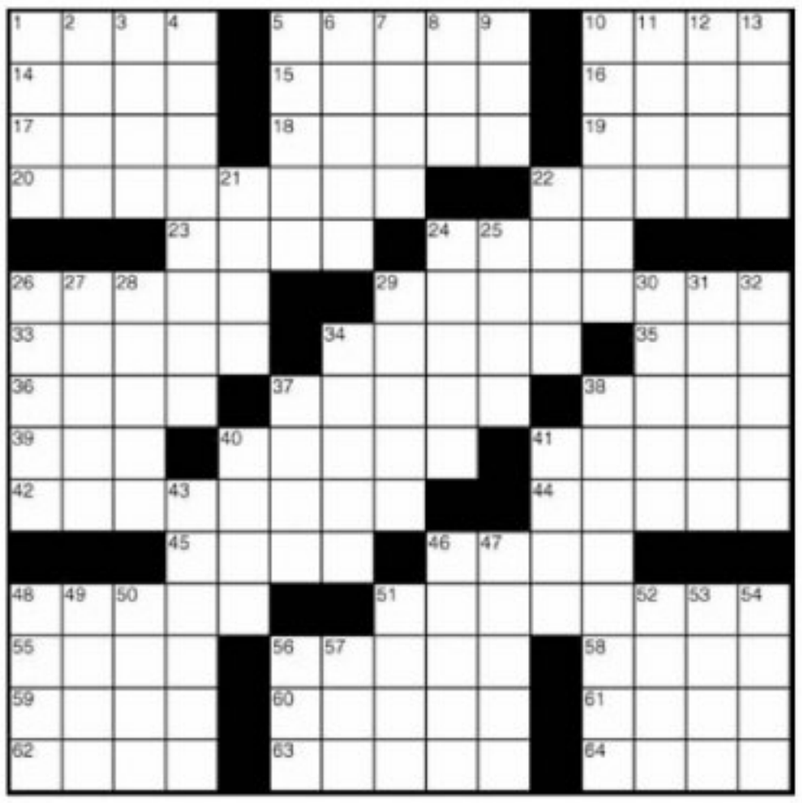
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Those with whom you are involved aren't likely to tolerate any heavy-handed tactics. Use measures that are fair but firm, and be considerate of others' feelings.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** When and where your expectations are within feasible perimeters, things should work out reasonably well for you. You're not apt to get something for nothing.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Staffs
5 Play place
10 Junk email
14 Mr. Baldwin
15 Put the whammy on
16 Realtor's offering
17 Eye protector
18 Big game for bwana
19 Name in essays
20 Memorabilia
22 Primp
23 Garage job
24 Handy swab (hyph.)
26 Eucalyptus muncher
29 Aptly
33 — to the teeth
34 Brief sparkle
35 Blended whiskey
36 1917 abdicator
37 Please greatly
38 "— Smile" (Hall & Oates tune)
39 Untold centuries
40 Shaman's findings
41 Brownies
42 Kind of turtle
44 Beauty's swain
45 Not theirs
46 Sunblock additive
48 Machines for weaving
51 Ritzier
55 Ms. Thompson of films
56 Gold-orange gem
58 Groundless, as fears
59 Sooner city
60 Habituate
61 Beak
62 Wind catcher
63 Geologic samples
64 Pleased

Down
1 Actress — Powers
2 Mr. Greenspan
3 Bird's abode
4 German poet
5 Rose bush
6 Giggle (hyph.)
7 Gyroscope part
8 Mil. rank
9 Tokyo of old
10 Everest guide
11 Guide a raft
12 Brigitte's friend
13 Vicious
21 Campus area
22 Cussler hero
24 Gives notice
25 Antler prong
26 Winslet and Beckinsale
27 Bean or Welles
28 Iowa commune
29 Street lingo
30 Shout to a diva
31 Early harps
32 Nutritional supplement
34 Hollows
37 Qatar ruler
38 Taming hair
40 Opera or symphony
41 Poet's black
43 Brilliantine
46 Not in the dark
47 Lolls in a hammock
48 Chive relative
49 Former Atlanta stadium
50 Jump over
51 Urge on
52 Elvis, to some
53 Famed lioness
54 Bulrush or cattail
56 Nervous twitch
57 She loved Lennon



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9	7					1		8
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4	5		6					1
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	4	6	2	9	7			5
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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

C	A	N	A	L		I	D	E	M		C	O	N	S
O	L	I	V	E		N	A	G	S		A	V	O	N
M	A	N	E	T		F	U	R	S		S	E	R	E
B	I	E	R	S	T	U	B	E		N	U	R	S	E
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E	R	I	C		A	C	M	E		L	U	G	E	R
R	A	C	Y		S	T	A	N		E	L	O	P	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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drinking

‘Drinking Boston’ conjures up the old spirits of the city’s lush history

Local author Stephanie Schorow discusses her new book and where she might want to go if she had a time machine and an empty glass

THURSTY

LUKE O’NEIL
TWITTER: @LUKEONEIL47

Drinking in the Hub has come full circle, or so says Stephanie Schorow, author of the enlightening new book “Drinking Boston: A History of the City and its Spirits” (Union Park Press).

In just one example, Schorow details how Boston — once a hotbed of beer production, with some 30 breweries in the area before Prohibition — has been reclaiming its sudsy reputation with the proliferation of craft brewers in recent years.

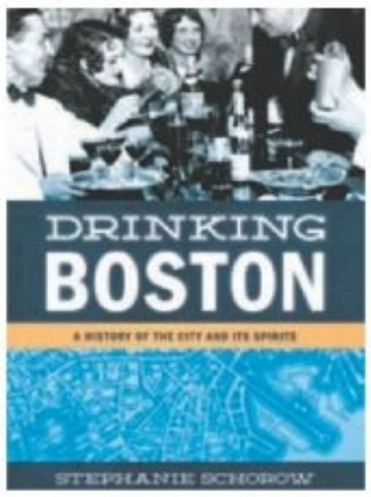
Throughout the research process, she dug through historical archives and old newspaper accounts and spoke with the city’s drinking experts and historians (the least impressive of which being your humble reporter). The book sheds light on the revolutionary-era taverns and saloons and their role in the political process, Prohibition-era gangsters and the 20th-century nightclub boom in the city, all subjects that are probably only vaguely familiar to most of us, but ones which feel quite contemporary.

▶ Schorow, left, will read at Best Cellars (24 High St., Medford) on Dec. 13. For more info, visit www.bestsellers-cafe.com.

“Along the way we make stops at famous saloons in Boston, like McGreevy’s Tavern — probably the first sports bar — [and] go into speakeasies during Prohibition,” she says. “The idea is to look at where people drink, what they drink and why they drink.”

What drew her to the project? It seemed like a chance to drink a lot, she jokes.

“Actually, there was a lot more research than there was drinking. Once you start getting below the surface, you find pretty interesting factoids and people.”



She says uncovering stories of temperance workers, criminals and barflies who fill in the cracks of our illustrious and sometimes dangerous history was one of the most appealing aspects of writing this book. They drank so that we may do so today.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Have a beer with history

Among her favorite personalities was temperance activist Cora France Stoddard. “I just fell in love with this woman. She was just a woman ahead of her time. She was on the wrong end of history. Had this been another era, she would’ve become a social worker or a researcher or a political leader. But because of the restrictions on women, and the fact that she was ill a lot of her life, she chose the temperance movement. She was one of these fascinating unknown people in Boston, very well-known in her day, but has been lost history.”

Back in the day

Favorite bar of the past?

Places like the Pioneer Club in the South End were appealing to Schorow: “It was kind of an after-hours club. ... That’s the place I would’ve liked to go. It was a black jazz club, but everyone went there: reporters, mobsters, politicians — Billie Holiday might show up. It was after Prohibition, but you had to knock on the door, had to know someone to get in. It closed at four in the morning.”

hot tickets

A 'Celebration' for two

Japandroids say fewer members means fewer problems Learning how to entertain more fans in bigger venues can be a challenge though

TIM MOSENFELDER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brian King, left, and Dave Prowse are Japandroids.

There's no question that electronic dance music has been the primary driving force in music for the past few years. We would never be so misguided to set up some sort of oppositional binary between DJ culture and traditional rock music (because obviously both can exist peacefully). But if we had to, there's no question which band would go as the first pick in our hypothetical fantasy music draft: Japandroids.

The sound on their acclaimed second record, "Celebration Rock," is the Platonic ideal of shouted basement-show punk vehemence, best exemplified by song-of-the-year candidate, "The House That Heaven Built." The Vancouver band's success has found them graduating from the smaller clubs from which their stage-dives and bro-hugs aesthetic was born into much larger rooms, on an exhaustive tour that will bring them for the first time to Australia, Korea and, of course, Japan.

"I feel like we live on the road," drummer and vocalist Dave Prowse says from Tampa. "We just tend to tour pretty hard, and not really take a lot of breaks. ... I think because we were kind of a struggling local band for two years, as soon as we got the opportunity to tour and see a lot of places, we had a hard time saying no to anything."

Quoted

"In a six-piece, it's probably harder to convince six people to go on road for two years." PROWSE

In the early days, working as a duo made that sort of schedule a lot more feasible, he says.

"When we first started, it was us in a Ford explorer. It was a lot easier to make that work with two people. For a variety of reasons, being a two-piece makes logistics easier. Obviously the money, and the fact that there's only one other person you have to come to an agreement with. In a six-piece, it's probably harder to convince six people to go on road for two years."

That doesn't mean that he and guitarist Brian King don't still have their share of disagreements, but having known each other for so long, Prowse says, they're on the same page about most things.

"The thing about being in a two-piece, you can't put anything to a vote, so if you disagree about something you just have to figure it out. We have pretty similar ideas about lots of kind of trickier situations that bands have to make, with respect to things like licensing music for advertisements or something like that, which is a big thing for a lot of bands. But neither of us are interested in doing that, so it's easy to say no to that. ... Obviously, there are certain moments where we disagree, [but it's] usually about small stuff, rather than big stuff, which is probably the reason we're still a band after seven years."

If you go

Japandroids with DIIV
Sunday, 7 p.m.
The Paradise
SOLD OUT
www.livenation.com

LUKE O'NEIL
luke.oneil@metro.us

The house that Japandroids built

The higher profile of "Celebration Rock" has brought with it bigger crowds and a new set of logistical concerns for such an intimate-punk venue style act.

"A big thing for us as a two-piece is trying to fill that space on a stage that big," Prowse says of clubs like the Metro in Chicago or the Fillmore in San Francisco, where they had play before, but never as the headliner.

"That's definitely part of the reason why we brought someone in to do lights, just to help give people something to see, especially when you're a little further from the audience. Normally when we tour, we're playing intimate rooms, places that have 500 rather than 1,000 plus. It's a bit of a learning curve for sure."

The change in the band's stature has had an effect on how Prowse views the clubs as well. "Coming back to some of those venues, they feel a lot smaller than the first time. They felt so big when I went in there two and a half years ago."

Also onstage

Caspian

Friday, 7 p.m.
The Sinclair, 52 Church St., Cambridge, $13, 800-745-3000
www.sinclaircambridge.com
This Beverly-based band plays dense, progressive, instrumental post-rock awash in dreamy textures and dramatic crescendos, suggestive of vast landscapes. It's easy music to get lost in, lulling you back and forth between twinkling harmonics and rousing battle cries. The only danger is that you won't want to come back from Narnia.

Ricardo Cortes

Tonight, 7
Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St., Brookline
www.brooklinebooksmith.com

EVAN TEREAULT

▶ Caspian are scheduled to play The Sinclair Friday. Visit their site to see if the new venue is open!

Following the success of last year's "Go the F— to Sleep," Cortes returns with this illustrated essay on the historical relationships between coffee, the coca leaf and Coca-Cola. In "A Secret History of Coffee, Coca and Cola," he examines a number of publically available historical documents that chronicle the relationship between the government and the Coca-Cola company, which goes something like this, "Hey, you let us import and use the internationally banned coca leaf in our secret formula, and we'll help you keep anyone else from legally obtaining it." Pick up Tuesday's Metro to read Jonathan Donaldson's interview with the author. METRO

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- **Kishi Bashi**
  Feb. 9, The Sinclair
  (On sale Friday)
- **Allstar Weekend** with Cute Is What We Aim For, Tiffany Alvord
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- **Every Time I Die**
  March 15, Royale
  (On sale Friday)

Nick Cave

- **Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds** with Sharon Van Etten
  March 24, The Orpheum
  (On sale at 10 a.m. today)
- **Thao and the Get Down Stay Down**
  March 24, The Sinclair
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  June 23, House of Blues
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food&drink

Cocktail of the week

Chai-Spiced White Hot Sangria

- 3 oz. Palacios White Rioja
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- 1.25 oz. chai spice reduction
- 1 oz. honey ginger essence
- ½ oz. lime juice

Directions: Shake ingredients and garnish with Cardamom-Orange Scented Whipped Cream (recipe below) and ground cinnamon.

- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ tsp. ground cardamom
- ½ tsp. orange blossom extract

Whip to consistency

▶ Chia-Spiced White Hot Sangria

Songza

Reggae Christmas

company, which calls itself a music concierge service, offers thousands of expertly-curated playlists for free on the Web, iPhone and iPad. Each week Metro teams up with Songza to bring you fun new playlists as you enter into the weekend.

If you're tired of the same played out holiday songs already, try a playlist that offers a reggae alternative. Stream three-and-a-half hours of irie jams with "Natty & Nice: A Reggae Christmas," online at **www.metro.us/songza** and **www.songza.com/discover/culture/christmas/natty-and-nice-a-reggae-christmas-songza**. Some of the tracks include "We Wish You A Reggae Christmas" by Yellowman, "Happy Christmas" by Toots and the Maytals (pictured) and a whole lot of classics you already know, but set to skanking beats.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The

▶ Brian Alberg brings tasty dishes to the Red Lion.

I'm dreaming of a Red Lion

If the holiday season finds you on a road trip to the Berkshires, you must stop by this Stockbridge country inn for a delicious bite, courtesy of chef Brian Alberg

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN

LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

More than any other time of the year, right now the Red Lion Inn's quaint dining room feels perfect. Set in the Berkshires, the low-ceilinged room is stacked with nostalgia and stocked with the type of old-world charm that requires putting extra e's on some of those words. Olde worlde charm. There!

Glittering chandeliers that seem too grand for a country inn contrast with a roaring log-stoked fire burning in the lobby, where guests play board games. For dreams of white Christmases just like the ones someone used to know, this is it.

Once you've taken in the ambient nostalgia, there's chef Brian Alberg's farm country-inspired menu to tuck into. Alberg rightly centers on those now coveted Berkshire goodies, including much that's organic and sustainable — an ethic carried through to the wine list, which includes biodynamic and organic wines.

Alberg doesn't add anything that isn't necessary. His team preps and cooks well, favoring solid cooking nous over fanciful creations. A fabulously fresh salad of tasty Berkshire greens includes a tangy but mild Rawson Brook goat cheese and smoked almonds for a bacon-y flavor. A light vinaigrette with a touch of maple syrup from Ioka Valley Farm in Hancock calmly ties it together. A traditional turkey plate matches naturally raised meat with mash, cranberry and scratch-made stuffing. A roasted Berkshire pork loin is trimmed with piquant red cabbage hash and creamed sweet potato that has no added sugary taste. The pork is cooked through until the center has only the faintest pink blush. Perfect.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

If you go

Red Lion Inn
Entrees: $24-$34
30 Main St., Stockbridge
413-298-5545
www.redlioninn.com

And for dessert ...

For dessert, the Red Lion Inn's lemon tart is a standout. It has a biscuity shortbread crust filled with robust lemon custard that's the color of sunny summer dandelion flowers. A deep red tart raspberry coulis enhances the filling's tantalizing tug-of-war between sweet and sour. The piece de resistance: whipped thick cream from High Lawn Dairy in nearby Lee. Imagine, a generation of Americans thought cream came canned and fat-free! Ha!

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Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

GETTY IMAGES

1 TEXANS (11-1)
It seems like everyone agrees Houston is the best team in football, yet no one is picking them to win the Super Bowl — especially when they win with Arian Foster touching the ball just 14 times. Kind of odd. Texans have already clinched a postseason berth and set a franchise mark for wins.

2 FALCONS (11-1)
Some Saints players were beating their chests and telling the Falcons *they* were the team to beat in the NFC South. Not true. Defense collected five picks and second title in three years.

3 BRONCOS (9-3)
Demaryius Thomas is the new Reggie Wayne, doubling his yardage and TD totals from 2011. Think that happens with Tebow under center?

4 49ERS (8-3-1)
We'll chalk up the loss to inferior St. Louis as a case of familiarity (remember, these two tied earlier). Colin Kaepernick is going to make mistakes — but will the good outweigh the bad?

5 PATRIOTS (9-3)
Look at the Pats icing a game by grinding it out on ground — a 16-play, seven-minute drive led by Stevan Ridley — instead of putting it in Tom Brady's hands.

6 RAVENS (9-3)
Inexcusable home loss to a Charlie Batch-led Pittsburgh team. Missed out on the chance to sew up a division title and crane-kick the hated Steelers out of this year's postseason party.

7 PACKERS (8-4)
Green Bay is missing star power everywhere you look and still tied for the NFC North lead. If they ever get healthy, watch out. If not? Still a team you don't want to see.

8 BEARS (8-4)
Hard-luck injuries to Brian Urlacher and Tim Jennings threaten to derail what could be a special season in the Windy City. A Dec. 16 home game against the Packers looms large.

9 GIANTS (7-5)
Lost an opportunity to slam the door on the NFC East. But If we've learned anything, never count Eli out when the weather gets colder and Coughlin's face gets redder.

10 SEAHAWKS (7-5)
Russell Wilson is flying under the radar with so many talented rooks. He has three fourth-quarter comebacks, same as Luck and one better than RG3.

11 BENGALS (7-5)
Andy Dalton has 10 touchdowns (with just two INTs) in his last four starts, all Bengals wins. They have Dallas, Philly, Pittsburgh and Baltimore the last four weeks.

12 COLTS (8-4)
Colts interim head coach Bruce Arians said, "Some teams find ways to win. Others don't." It's pretty simple, really. Some teams have Andrew Luck. Others don't.

13 REDSKINS (6-6)
Who would get the bigger ovation in our nation's capital right now: RG3 or Barack Obama? You know the answer, and it's not close.

14 STEELERS (7-5)
If Big Ben can endure a strong week of practice, he may start Sunday. If that happens, we'll jump back on the bandwagon — as long as Charlie Batch isn't driving it.

15 BUCCANEERS (6-6)
Eleven penalties is killer against anyone, not to mention Denver. Luckily, Tampa Bay gets a cupcake this week with a home game against the lowly Eagles

16 VIKINGS (6-6)
Adrian Peterson is a robot. No, really. He's not human. Unfortunately for the Vikes, Christian Ponder (aka Mr. Samantha Steele) is very, very human.

17 COWBOYS (6-6)
Tony Romo was great in the second half (10-for-10, three touchdowns). But then again, we're pretty sure our high school QB could needle a few through the Eagles' secondary.

18 SAINTS (5-7)
If Drew Brees and company can scratch together a win at the Meadowlands, the dream lives on. More likely, Eli Manning kills it in the fourth quarter.

ON TV TODAY

NFL

BRONCOS AT RAIDERS
8:20 P.M., NFLN

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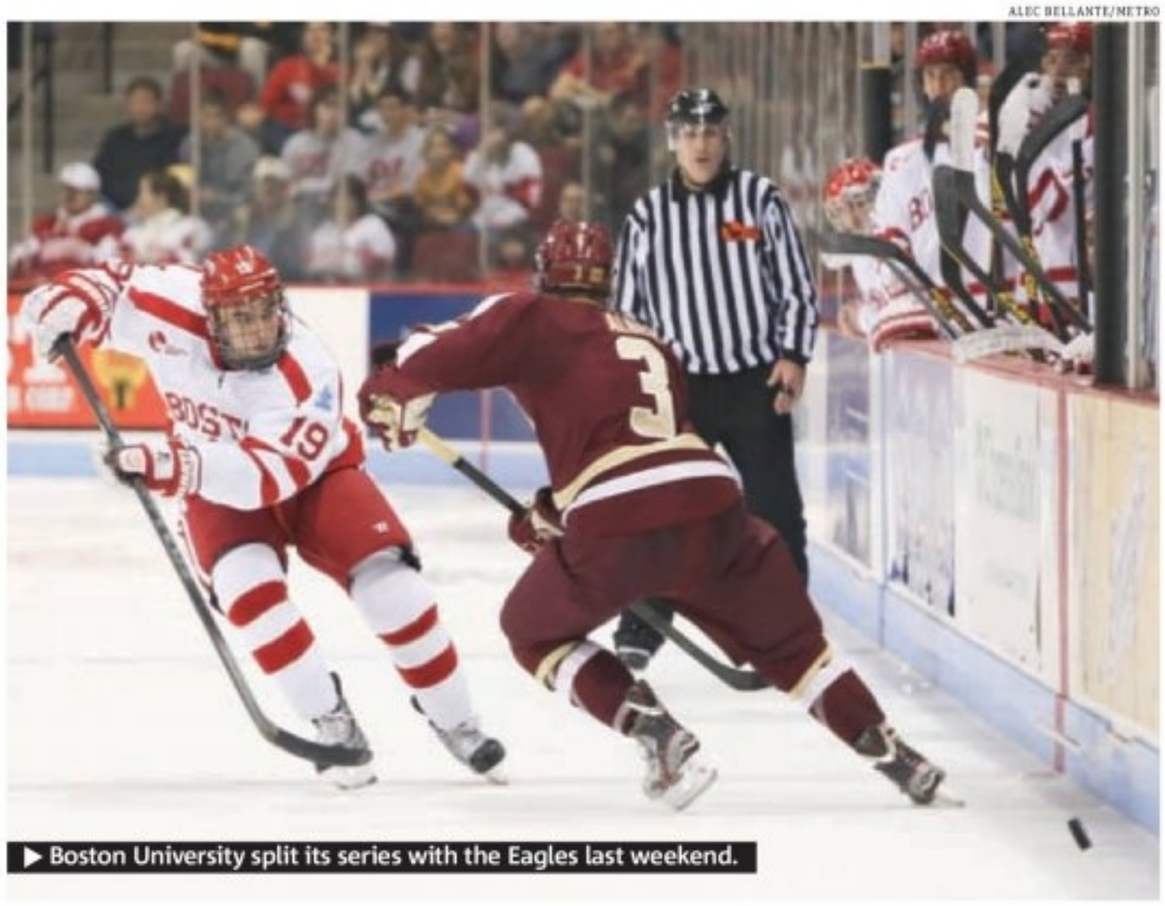

▶ Boston University split its series with the Eagles last weekend.

Beanpot report: BC may be mortal

Boston College's nearly two-month reign at the top of men's college hockey's Top 20 polls came to an end on Monday, as the University of New Hampshire knocked them down one spot. This was a result of the Eagles losing 4-2 at Boston University last Friday. Of course, the defending national champions recovered to smack the Terriers, 5-2, on Saturday, so we don't need to feel any pity for Jerry York's troops.

Power rankings:

1. Boston College (11-2-0)

A national audience on NBC Sports Network was treated to the best rivalry in college hockey last weekend with a double dose of BC vs. BU. It didn't disappoint, as both teams won on their home ice. The Eagles found themselves in a 2-0 hole in the second period on Friday, then a 3-1 deficit in the third, as it was too much to overcome. It was a different story on Saturday as a 1-1 tie turned into a 4-1 advantage with three goals in the second period for the home team. Tomorrow BC takes on the Providence Friars, who have been the surprise of the conference.

2. Boston University (8-5-0)

You knew that it would be almost impossible to beat the Eagles on Saturday, especially after a loss, so you can't penalize BU too much in that regard. The only real bad news for the Terriers is that promising sophomore winger Yasin Cisse abruptly left the program after last weekend to pursue a junior hockey career in his native Canada.

3. Harvard (4-3-0)

Freshman forward Jimmy Vesey was named to the preliminary roster for the U.S. National junior team. That's about as big an honor as you'll find for someone his age, and he currently leads the Crimson with eight points.

4. Northeastern (4-7-1)

It's hard to logically explain how a team can get an impressive 1-0 win on the road against a conference foe then come back the next night, on their home ice, and get blown out by that same opponent (UMass-Amherst).

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Urgent Health News

Experts surprised to discover fat burning effect in Raspberry Ketones

(Canoga Park, CA) In recent scientific studies, researchers have found that raspberry ketones affect the metabolism by increasing the release of two hormones, norepinephrine and adiponectin. Norepinephrine causes the body's temperature to rise which burns more fat. Adiponectin has *direct control* over your metabolism. When there are high levels of adiponectin, the cells are consistently *releasing* rather than *storing* fat. Simply put, thinner people have larger amounts while obese people have significantly lower levels.

"It's a miracle fat burner in a bottle" - Dr. Oz

Research and Development

Unfortunately, it takes an extremely large amount of raspberries to produce the required amount of ketones necessary to promote weight loss so the chemists at SimplePure Nutrition went to work. Using only natural, high quality ingredients, they developed a proprietary formula specifically designed to create the perfect metabolic balance ideal for weight loss. At press time their manufacturers were working overtime to meet demand for their free* trial offer.

SimplePure offers Free Bottle

With the exception of TV's Dr. Oz declaring that Raspberry Ketones were the "miracle fat burner in a bottle", the news about this recent discovery has been limited. SimplePure Nutrition is offering a free bottle of Raspberry Ketones so consumers can see the amazing effects for themselves.

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